

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the application. In the non-final Office Action dated September 6, 2006, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101.
- B.) Rejected claims 1, 2, 7-10, 13-16, 21-24, 27-30, 35-38, and 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Waclawsky* (U.S. 5,446,874).
- C.) Rejected claims 3-6, 17-20, and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Waclawsky* in view of *Baker* (U.S. 4,847,795).
- D.) Objected to claims 11, 12, 25, 26, 39, and 40.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and addresses the Examiner's disposition below. Claims 1, 12, 15, 26, 29, 40, 43, and 44 have been amended. Claims 11, 25, and 39 have been canceled.

- A.) Rejection of claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner on the rejection. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant amends claims 1 and 5 in accordance with the Examiner's request to overcome the rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

- B.) Rejection of claims 1, 2, 7-10, 13-16, 21-24, 27-30, 35-38, and 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Waclawsky* (U.S. 5,446,874):

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 11, 25, and 39.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 11.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25.

Claim 29 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 39.

Therefore, claims 1, 15, and 29, as amended, are allowable.

Claims 2, 7-10, 13-16, 21-24, 27-30, 35-38, and 41-42 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 15, or 29 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 15, and 29

are allowable.

Similar to claims 1, 15, and 29, claims 43 and 44 have been amended to include subject matter relating to a first data structure and a second data structure each including an ordered triple of variables. Therefore, claims 43 and 44, each as amended, are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

C.) Rejection of claims 3-6, 17-20, and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Waclawsky* in view of *Baker* (U.S. 4,847,795):

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Claims 1, 15, and 29 are allowable as discussed above.

Claims 3-6, 17-20, and 31-34 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 15, or 29 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 15, and 29 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

D.) Objection to claims 11, 12, 25, 26, 39, and 40:

Applicant notes that in the Office Action of 9/6/06, on page 8, the Examiner states that claims 24 and 25 are allowed. This contradicts the Examiner's rejection of claim 24 in the same Office Action. Applicant submits that this was likely a typographical error. Applicant assumes that claims 25 and 26 have been allowed. Claims 25 and 26 were not rejected in the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 11, 12, 25, 26, 39, and 40.

Claims 11, 25, and 39 have been canceled.

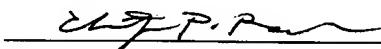
Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 15. Claim 40 has been amended to depend from claim 29.

Applicant respectfully submits the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-10, 12-24, 26-38, and 40-44 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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